

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council recognizes the value of the 2012 Charter Revision Committee's February 22, 2012 Report to City Council, which recommended creation of a public searchable and downloadable database of electronic campaign finance reports, lobbying reports, and independent expenditures; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 20120426-087 set goals for achieving this recommendation and associated electronic filings to occur prior to the fundraising period for the next municipal election; and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk's August 30, 2012 Report to Council on Creation of an Online Filing System for State and City Financial Forms outlines options which have significant cost impacts; and

WHEREAS, results of the November 2012 charter amendment election could impact campaign finance forms as well as the timing of the next municipal election; and

WHEREAS, the city currently uses forms and schedules dictated by the state and also uses several forms that are unique to the city; and

WHEREAS, during the 2011 state legislative session a proposal to make

the state Campaign Finance Report Database system available was introduced, and a similar proposal may be considered in the upcoming session; and

WHEREAS, adoption and/or customization of the state system could be a lower cost solution than options outlined by the City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, additional options such as data uploads from submitted spreadsheets and wizard interfaces could also provide more transparency at a lower development cost to the city; and

WHEREAS, the city's data portal available now has the potential to make some campaign information available to the public for civic development of related applications, as was demonstrated at the Code for America Hackathon on September 8, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the City Council's goal is to achieve the Charter Revision Committee's recommendations while minimizing cost impacts; and

WHEREAS, the city's Ethics Review Commission has reviewed the efficacy of some of the forms required from city candidates, taking into consideration the potential for electronic data entry;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City Council supports legislative action in the next session that

would make the state system available to municipalities and directs the City Manager to include it in our legislative program for the 83rd legislative session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Clerk and the City Manager are encouraged to work in collaboration with the Open Government Working Group of the Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission to further explore implementation options and prototypes for an electronic campaign finance database system

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Clerk is further directed to provide City Council with quarterly progress reports.

ADOPTED: _____, 2012

ATTEST: _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk